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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/811,489

03/29/2004

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Q80759

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23373 7590 05/29/2007
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EXAMINER

DICKER, DENNIS T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2609

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/29/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/811,489	Applicant(s) MIYAZAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner Dennis Dicker	Art Unit 2609	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/29/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 and 10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Inoue et al (hereinafter "Inoue" US Pub 2001/0045966 A1)

3. As pertaining to claim 1, Inoue teaches an image output method adopted in an image output device equipped with an output processing module wherein output processing module have a multi-stage processing units [See Figure 1]. Inoue also teaches an output method which comprises the steps of receiving and image, identifying the received image data [para 0085] and assigning a specific stage processing unit adequate for the identified type of image data [para 0088].

4. As pertaining to claim 10, Inoue teaches an image output module comprising a last stage processing unit that executes output of an image based on the output data [See abstract and figure 7].

5. As pertaining to claim 11, Inoue teaches an image output method wherein said image output method device is constructed to be connectable via a specific communication interface with multiple different image input devices that input image data and receives image data via communication interface [para 0069] and further [Figures 10 and 11].

6. As pertaining to claim 12, Inoue teaches an image output method which acquires type data representing the type of the received image data in response to the reception of the image data from one of said multiple different image input devices via the communication interface [para 0084] and further [Figure 2].
7. As pertaining to claim 13, Inoue teaches output method wherein the image output method is a printing device [Abstract].
8. As pertaining to claim 14, Inoue teaches output method wherein printing device is an inkjet printer [para 0108].
9. As pertaining to claim 15, Inoue teaches an image output method that outputs and image wherein image output device comprises: an output processing module [abstract], an image data receiving module [Figure 1], an image data type identification module [para 0085] and an processing assignment module [para 0088].
10. As pertaining to claim 16, Inoue teaches a storage medium storing a program, which causes a computer to function as an output device [Para 0228].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue in view of Tateyama (2002/0054344).

With respect to claim 2, Inoue teaches an image output method adopted in an image output device equipped with an output processing module wherein the output processing module has multi-stage processing units[See Figure 1]. Inoue also teaches an output method which comprises the steps of receiving and image, identifying the received image data [para 0085] and assigning a specific stage processing unit adequate for the identified type of image data [para 0088].

Inoue does not explicitly teach an output processing module which comprises a color conversion processing unit as one of multi stage processing units, which carries out a series of processing including a conversion process for converting a received image from a predetermined color system to a predetermined color system for output.

Tateyama teaches an image output method wherein the output processing module which comprises a color conversion processing unit as one of multi stage processing units, which carries out a series of processing including a conversion process for converting a predetermined color system of the received image into a color system for output [para 0233 and Figure 29]. Tateyama also teaches received image data being identified [para 0261-0263 and Figure 31] and assigned to a specific stage adequate for the identified received image data.

Therefore it would have been obvious by someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include a color conversion unit in an image output device such as a printer where the color system of an image input device is not the same as a color system for output.

With respect to claim 3, Inoue teaches an image output method adopted in an image output device equipped with an output processing module wherein the output processing module has multi-stage processing units[See Figure 1]. Inoue also teaches an output method which comprises the steps of receiving and image, identifying the received image data [para 0085] and assigning a specific stage processing unit adequate for the identified type of image data [para 0088].

Inoue does not explicitly teach an image output method wherein the predetermined color system is a RGB color system and the color system for output is a CMY color system.

Tateyama teaches image data inputted from a image input device where the color system is RGM and the color system for output is CMY color system [Figure 30].

Therefore it would have been obvious by someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to convert data inputted in the RGB color system to a CMY color system in order to print out image data, as these are industry standards.

With respect to claim 4, Inoue teaches an image output method adopted in an image output device equipped with an output processing module wherein the output processing module has multi-stage processing units [See Figure 1]. Inoue also teaches an output method which comprises the steps of receiving and image, identifying the received image data [para 0085] and assigning a specific stage processing unit adequate for the identified type of image data [para 0088].

Inoue does not teach an image output method wherein the color conversion-processing unit is actualized by an exclusive hardware structure.

Tateyama teaches a color conversion processing unit actualized by an exclusive hardware structure [Figure 29].

Therefore it would have been obvious by someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have an exclusive structure for the conversion processing unit in order to allow particular image data already in the correct color to skip this unit in order in the process to output image data.

With respect to claim 5, Inoue teaches an image output method adopted in an image output device equipped with an output processing module wherein the output processing module has multi-stage processing units [See Figure 1]. Inoue also teaches an output method which comprises the steps of receiving and image, identifying the received image data [para 0085] and assigning a specific stage processing unit adequate for the identified type of image data [para 0088].

Inoue does not explicitly teach an image output method wherein said output method comprises an extension processing unit that makes compressed image data in a predetermined format subject to a preset series of extension processing and outputs resulting extended image data to the color conversion processing unit.

Tateyama shows a processing unit that makes compressed image data in a predetermines format [para 0233] and then shows when the image data is compress in the predetermined format an assigned specific stage assigns the extension processing unit to process the received image data [Figure 29].

Therefore it would have been obvious by someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to compress the image before color conversion to reduce storage space before color conversion.

13. Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue in view of Hisatomi et al (hereinafter "Hisatomi" 2002/0171857).

With respect to claim 6, Inoue teaches an image output method adopted in an image output device equipped with an output processing module wherein the output processing module has multi-stage processing units[See Figure 1]. Inoue also teaches an output method which comprises the steps of receiving and image, identifying the received image data [para 0085] and assigning a specific stage processing unit adequate for the identified type of image data [para 0088].

Inoue does not teach an image output method wherein the output processing module comprises an analysis process unit, which analyzes a description file described in a page description language and outputs the resulting processed image to a subsequent stage processing unit.

Hisatomi teaches an analyzer processing unit which analyzes a description file in a page description language and outputs resulting processed image data to a subsequent stage processing unit [Para 0016].

Therefore it would have been obvious by someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize a processing unit, which analyzes a description file of image data to identify multiple data sources in order to process image data accordingly in order to output correct image data.

With respect to claims 7 and 8, Inoue teaches an image output method adopted in an image output device equipped with an output processing module wherein the output processing module has multi-stage processing units[See Figure 1]. Inoue also teaches an output method which comprises the steps of receiving and image, identifying the received image data [para 0085] and assigning a specific stage processing unit adequate for the identified type of image data [para 0088].

Inoue does not explicitly teach an image output method wherein the selected page description language is a predetermined markup language and script language.

Hisatomi teaches an analysis process unit which analyzes a description file in a page description language and outputs resulting processed image data to a subsequent stage processing unit [para 0016]. He then teaches an image output method where the page description language is a predetermined markup language [para 0043] and script language [para 0105 and 0040].

Therefore it would have been obvious by someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize the industry standard of this page description language that is a markup language and script language for the use of transmitting and receiving data by radio communication.

With respect to claims 9, Inoue teaches an image output method adopted in an image output device equipped with an output processing module wherein the output processing module has multi-stage processing units [See Figure 1]. Inoue also teaches an output method which comprises the steps of receiving and image, identifying the

received image data [para 0085] and assigning a specific stage processing unit adequate for the identified type of image data [para 0088].

Inoue does not explicitly teach an image output method wherein the selected image output device is constructed to be connectable via a specific communication interface with a broadcasting receiver device that receives broadcast data send from a broadcast station.

Hisatomi teaches an analysis process unit which analyzes a description file in a page description language and outputs resulting processed image data to a subsequent stage processing unit [para 0016]. He then teaches an image output device, which is constructed, to be connectable via a specific communication interface [para 0039] and when image data is received the description is created based on the broadcast data received [para 0016].

Therefore it would have been obvious by someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have the image output device constructed to be connectable via a specific communication interface to send and receive data by way of broadcast stations as this is an industry standard for transmission of data using digital broadcasting.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis Dicker whose telephone number is (571) 270-

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3140. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Eisen can be reached on (571) 272-7687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


DENNIS-DOON CHOW
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DD
5/23/2007